



NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:

Dave Glatt or Steve Tillotson
Environmental Health Section
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328. 5166
E-mail: stillots@nd.gov

Contractor Selected for Cleanup of Filter Socks in Noonan

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has selected the Next Generation Solutions – Secure Energy Services to properly dispose of the filter socks that were illegally dumped in an abandoned gas station in Noonan, N.D. Next Generation was the only company that submitted a bid for the cleanup before the April 4 deadline.

Filter socks can build up low levels of naturally occurring radioactivity when used for filtering various fluids produced during oil and gas exploration. Next Generation is one of two companies currently licensed in North Dakota to perform radioactive waste decontamination activities. They will containerize the filter socks in a leak proof shipping container, remove any residual contaminated materials, dispose of all the materials at a licensed facility in Idaho, and test the area to confirm that it meets the radiation criteria for unrestricted use.

Estimated cost for the project is \$12,595. Cleanup will start as soon as possible and is estimated to take one to two days to complete. The clean-up will be paid for by the Oil & Gas Division's Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Plugging and Site Restoration Fund (AWPSRF), which provides for clean-up efforts when no responsible party can be found. The fund is derived from oil and gas taxes, penalties from violations, and fees collected by the Oil & Gas Division. The fund is capped at \$75 million with \$5 million available per fiscal year.

For more information contact Dave Glatt or Steve Tillotson, North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.5150 or 701.328.5166.

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